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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/RUS KATE SZPILA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/27/2018

TAGS: PREL RS GG UV

SUBJECT: BURKINA FASO SUPPORTS U.S. ON RUSSIAN RECOGNITION OF

ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA

REF: SECSTATE 90978

Classified by ADCM Joann Lockard for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) On August 26, PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Saidou Zongo, Acting Director of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Zongo explained that the GOBF is concerned about the increasing tension in the region resulting from the declarations of independence by the two separatist regions. Furthermore, Zongo said the GOBF agreed with the U.S. position that Russia should not recognize Abkhazia or South Ossetia. Zongo promised to transmit the demarche talking points to his superiors and to the GOBF mission in New York. He agreed to contact the Embassy if the GOBF had a more detailed position to share. Zongo said that he understood the extreme urgency of the situation and noted that the issue may advance before the GOBF has time to send an official response.

**JACKSON**